

Message Text

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44

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PARM, UR, US

SUBJECT: SOVIET MEDIA ON VLADIVOSTOK AND U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS

USIA FOR IBS, IEE, IPS

1. SUMMARY. IZVESTIYA COMMENTARY ATTACKS AMERICAN DOUBTERS OF VLADIVOSTOK AGREEMENT. COMMENTARY CALLS VLADIVOSTOK MEETING ONE OF MOST FRUITFUL IN POSTWAR TIMES, AND STATES THAT JOINT STATEMENT LIMITS WERE BEST ATTAINABLE UNDER CURRENT CONDITIONS.

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PRAISE FOR THE MEETING CONTINUES APACE, BEING ONLY PARTIALLY

OVERSAHDOWED BY BREZHNEV'S VISIT TO FRANCE. END SUMMARY.

2. IZVESTIYA ON DECEMBER 4 CARRIES A SIGNED COMMENTARY (V. OSIPOV) TITLED "COMMON SENSE AND ULTERIOR MOTIVES" (EXCERPTS ALSO CARRIED ENGLISH TASS) WHICH CONTINUES PRAISE FOR RESULTS OF VLADIVOSTOK, POINTING TO SATISFACTION ON THE SOVIET SIDE AND ON THE AMERICAN SIDE, INCLUDING "EVEN THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE SCHLESINGER".

3. COMMENTARY, REVEALING SOVIET SENSITIVITY TO CRITICISM OF NUMBERS IN THE AGREEMENT, THEN LAUNCHES STRONGEST COUNTERATTACK TO APPEAR IN SOVIET MEDIA ON "AMERICAN PUBLIC FIGURES AND PRESS" WHO "ON ONE PRETEXT OR THE OTHER" WANT TO "NULLIFY" THE RESULTS OF VLADIVOSTOK. NAMED ARE SENATORS BUCKLEY, JACKSON, THURMOND, ALONG WITH JOSEPH ALSOP. THE COMMENTARY ARGUES, IN A FOLLOWING PARAGRAPH, THAT "IT IS CLEAR TO ALL OF SOUND MIND" THAT SINCE THE AGREEMENT IS BASED ON THE PRINCIPLES OF "EQUALITY AND EQUAL SECURITY", EACH SIDE'S INTERESTS ARE GUARANTEED AND IT IS OF BENEFIT TO BOTH SIDES. IT CONTINUES THAT IT SHOULD BE CLEAR TO ALL THAT "THE MAXIMUM POSSIBLE WAS REACHED UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, AND TO REJECT THIS NEW, SIGNIFICANT STEP FORWARD UNDER THE PROTEST THAT IT IS NOT A LARGE ENOUGH STEP FORWARD IS TO BE DEMAGOGIC". THE ARTICLE CONCLUDES WITH THE USUAL SOVIET MEDIA ACCUSATION THAT THOSE WHO OPPOSE THE AGREEMENT DO SO BECAUSE THEY DO NOT WANT ANY MOVEMENT FORWARD IN SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS.

4. IZVESTIYA DECEMBER 4 AND PRAVDA DECEMBER 5 CARRY EXCERPTS FROM THE PRESIDENT'S INTERVIEW IN NEWSWEEK. INCLUDED ARE THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS PRAISING SOVIET APPROACH TO NEGOTIATIONS, HIS CHARACTERIZATION OF ATMOSPHERE AS FRIENDLY, AND HIS STATEMENT THAT SUCCESS OF VLADIVOSTOK COULD BE EXPLAINED TO LARGE DEGREE BY PERSONAL PARTICIPATION AND CONTRIBUTION OF BREZHNEV.

5. PRAVDA DECEMBER 5 CARRIES LENGTHY EXCERPS OF THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH BEFORE THE AMERICAN CONGRESS ON TRADE. INCLUDED IN EXCERPTS IS PRESIDENT'S EMPHASIS THAT IS IS IN U.S.'S OWN INTEREST TO HAVE TRADE BILL APPROVED BECAUSE OF ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES IN WEST IN GENERAL AND IN THE AMERICAN ECONLMY, AS WELL AS HIS WARNING AGAINST TEMPTATIONS OF ISOLATIONISM.

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MAIN FOCUS, HOWEVER, IS PLAYBACK OF PRESIDENT'S STATEMENTS ON MFN AS IT APPLIES TO THE SOVIET UNION.

6. MEDIA EMPHASIS ON RESULTS OF VLADIVOSTOK CONTINUES AT ONLY A SLIGHTLY REDUCED PACE. COVERAGE OF BREZHNEV'S SUMMIT MEETING WITH GISCARD QUITE NATURALLY OVERSHADOWS IT IN TODAY'S CENTRAL PRESS. INTERESTINGLY, HOWEVER, EVEN IN ARTICESL COMMETING ON BREZHNEV'S VISIT TO FRANCE METION IS MADE OF IMPORTANCE OF

VLADIVOSTOK.
STOESSEL

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